

## Biographies of Artists

### **The Art of Strangers**

The Art of Strangers is an independent performance collective led by Fezhah Maznan and Felipe Cervera. Its artistic mission is to produce collaborative performance works that investigates contemporary issues related to education, globalization and human co-habitation. *The Mountain* is their first project, in which they seek to bring a wide range of people to create an intimate piece that discusses climate change.

### **Fezhah Maznan**

#### **Producer**

With more than ten years' experience in theatre and arts management, Fezhah hopes to ultimately combine Arts and Education to positively propel forward the lives of women and children of the forgotten and neglected. Her professional experience includes being the general manager of Teater Ekamatra and production management for companies and institutions such as The Necessary Stage and The Esplanade Co. Also a poignant poet, Fezhah is effectively multi-lingual in Malay, English, French and Spanish. She is currently pursuing her Masters degree in Arts Management at LASALLE College of the Arts.

### **Amitav Ghosh**

#### **Author**

Acclaimed Indian writer, educated in Delhi, Oxford and Alexandria. Author of *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In An Antique Land*, *Dancing in Cambodia*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *The Hungry Tide*, and *Sea of Poppies*, amongst others. His novels have won him important literary prizes like France's Prix Médicis (1990), Sahitya Akademi Award, Ananda Puraskar, The Arthur C. Clarke Award (1997), The International e-Book Award at Frankfurt Book Fair (2001), Crossword Book Prize (2005 and 2008) and The India Plaza Golden Quill Award (2008). His work has been translated into 20 languages. He has also been awarded with honorary doctorates from Queens College in New York and the Sorbonne in Paris. *The Mountain* is based on his essay *The Mystic Mountain*, an unpublished reflection on climate change delivered as part of his keynote speech at the conference 'The Asian Century' organised by the National University of Singapore.

### **Felipe Cervera**

#### **Director / Performer**

A theatre-maker and researcher who believes the world has ended, Felipe received his training in Mexico and the UK. His work has been showcased in festivals and symposiums in Mexico, USA, Argentina, UK, Poland, Egypt and Singapore. He has been a lecturer at the National University in Mexico, a guest lecturer at the universities of Veracruz (Mexico), Antioquia (Colombia), and Manchester (UK), as well as teaching

assistant at the University of Kent (UK) and the National University of Singapore, where he is currently doing a PhD in Theatre Studies.

### **Phorid (Kate Pocklington)**

#### **Visual Artist**

Spreading ink over 7000 miles, Kate (aka Phorid) moved to Singapore to continue her career in museums and restoration. From the flatlands of rural England to the high rise buildings of Singapore, Kate's work observes the nature of people and their movement of habitat, the submergence in nature and submissive experience of urbanisation. Looking at the world from nature's point of view, her artwork, once described as "not leaving you feeling very serene", shows discarded ancient ruins, derelict homes and what has become of us and our world.

### **Lachlan Andrews**

#### **Performer**

Lachlan Andrews is an Australian/ American. He started performing in Australian local productions at the age of 5. He enjoys acting, singing, tap dancing and being part of a multicultural cast. He has lived in Shanghai, speaks Mandarin and is learning Spanish. Lachlan is a Year 7 student at the Australian International School in Singapore and has performed in school productions. In 2012, he was in Bangkok as part of the International Schools Theatre Association Festival.

### **Isabella Chiam**

#### **Performer**

Isabella is a full-time actor & host who loves the stage, and embraces it as an acute reflection of life & its possibilities. A Theatre Studies graduate from the National University of Singapore, she has performed in plays such as *Conference of the Birds* (Orangedot Productions), *Girl in the White Sand Box* (Drama Box) and *Tahan* (Teater Ekamatra) and musicals such as *H is for Hantu* (STAGES), *Jack & the Beansprout* (Wild Rice) & *Liao Zhai Rocks!* (The Theatre Practice). She received an award for Best Ensemble at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Award 2008 for her work in *Mad Forest* (2007) & was last seen in The Theatre Practice's *The Bride Always Knocks Twice* (2013).

### **Vemalan Elangovan**

#### **Performer**

Vemalan graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Pursuing his passion outside of his work, he has been involved in a few productions over the past three years, mostly in Tamil. Committed to learning more about theatre and becoming a more versatile actor, Vemalan seeks to widen his horizons with more experience in English projects. His maiden performance in English was in May 2013 in *Mosaic*, as part of Alterity Production's *Alterity: A Double Bill*.

### **Miguel Escobar**

#### **Performer**

Miguel is interested in the intersections between different media and different cultures. In order to explore these, he has worked as a teacher, performer, translator and web developer in different countries. He studied Drama and Theatre in Mexico (UNAM), Cultural Policy in the Netherlands (Maastricht) and Javanese Wayang Kulit in Indonesia. He is currently a PhD candidate at the National University of Singapore. As a performer, he has collaborated with Indonesian artists in intercultural *wayang* shows and performs often in improvisational spectacles in Java.

### **Sharon Frese**

#### **Performer**

Sharon is a British Afro-Caribbean Theatre Practitioner and global nomad. She spent several years at The English Theatre Frankfurt before becoming happily rooted in Singapore. She has worked extensively with local practitioners and companies, her most recent appearance being in *VOICES* at the Drama Centre's Black Box. Sharon is honoured to have worked with The Necessary Stage in *Singapore*, Teater Ekamatra's site specific work *This Placement* and had several stints at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Asia. A Rose Bruford Alumni, she is also a connoisseur of local food.

### **Yazid de Jalil**

#### **Performer**

Yazid studied theatre under Philippe Gaulier in France. He is also an alumnus of the Singapore Repertory Theatre's youth wing, The Young Co.. He freelances as an actor, having worked for theatre companies like Teater Ekamatra, Buds Theatre Company, Cake Theatrical Productions, Agni Koothu, We Colour People Theatre Company and Yellow Chair Productions. Yazid was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards (2011) for his role in Teater Ekamatra's production of *Charged*. He was nominated in the Best Performance category at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Singapore Short Film Awards (2012) for his leading role in *Love in Any Genre*. Most recently, he and fellow actors from *Pretty Things* (Patricia Toh/ The Substation) were nominated for Best Ensemble at the Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards (2013).

### **Rebecca Lee**

#### **Performer**

Rebecca is originally from England but has lived in Singapore most of her life. She is a pioneer graduate with BA (Hons) in Acting from LASALLE College of the Arts. Since graduating Rebecca has been working as an actress and drama teacher. She also runs Buds Theatre Company. Her recent theatre credits include: Buds Theatre Company's *The Acid Test* (2012), *Cock* (2012), *Shades* (Bangladesh 2011), *Colder Than Here* (2010) and Toy Factory's *Equus* (2011). This is her first devised work in a long time and she is loving it.

**Joe Moreira**  
**Performer**

Joe enjoyed a childhood dreaming of being a doctor, priest and the grass cutter, innocently sowing the seeds for the actor in the distant future. He helmed Bradbury Wilkinson and Company's Singapore branch as its MD and later his own businesses in security printing, explosives applications and ordnance removal and event management. Constantly seeking new and different experiences, he enjoyed the moments on stage and in a recording studio as an emcee, trainer, speaker, program presenter for China Airlines and Garuda Indonesia and a voiceover artist for documentaries, audio books and commercials – all invariably expanding his involvement in social and grassroots organizations, enriching the depth and scope of human interactions and experiences. Unbeknownst yet of the thespian destiny, while resting after hospitalization for a mild heart attack, an urgent call for a minor role in a documentary in late October 2012 set the acting wheel in motion.

**Farez Najid**  
**Performer**

Farez Najid's first professional brush with the theatre scene was with Teater Ekamatra's *Rendezvous Point* in 2007. Since then he has continued his journey as an Attraction Artist in Sentosa's Images of Singapore. He was also in the pioneer cast of *Songs of the Sea*. He has also worked with numerous companies such as The Voice, Underground Theatre and Panggung Arts in numerous capacities. As of late, Farez has decided to once again delve into acting and in 2012 he acted in Hatch Theatrics' *National Memory Project* and in 2013 was the actor for Teater Ekamatra's *Taban*.

**Natalina Pereira**  
**Performer**

Natalina is currently pursuing her BA(Hons) in Theatre Studies at the National University of Singapore. Her passion for theatre began at 14. Since then, it has developed into a love and respect for the art form. When she is not desperately trying to grasp theories in university, she finds joy in being a speech and drama trainer with inwardBOUND. Her professional theatre debut was with The Necessary Stage, as part of the ensemble cast for *godeatgod*.

**Nur Khairiyah Bte Ramli**  
**Performer**

Nur Khairiyah Bte Ramli graduated from LASALLE College Of The Arts majoring in Theatre Arts. Whilst studying she spent time performing in school shows, filming and teaching speech & drama to pre-school children. Khai was also part of the The Young Co. by the Singapore Repertory Theatre back in 2007. She was an Assistant Production Co-ordinator for the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival & the main season productions for The Necessary Stage for two years. She is currently working as a programmer for performances at The Substation. Khai has also just debuted her first co-directing and co-



writing work called *Penantian* with Our Kampong and made her acting debut in ...*dan tiga dara terbang ke bulan* (...and three virgins fly to the moon) with Panggung Arts in May 2013.

### **Gladys Tan**

#### **Performer**

A jazz vocalist with SweeG3 after graduating from The Necessary Stage's (TNS) Theatre for Seniors Programme, Gladys performed her first stage role as The Queen in *Marionette* with Buds Theatre Company. She played Elder in the award-winning film *Terra Feminar* at the East meets West NYU Film Festival and was in a skit based on Macbeth's three witches at the Esplanade, for a performance by a Singapore musical quartet. She provided voiceover for #157 -*An Intimate Audio Encounter* for the Baba House and also participated in the dance/art walkabout in OH! Open House 2013. She was in TNS's main season production *October* (2012) and *Encore IV: Love Life* (2013). Gladys most recently performed in Going Local 3's *Walking In* with Buds Theatre Company.

### **Daisy Yeo**

#### **Performer**

Daisy had done shows for Buds Theatre Company, the Singaporean String Quartet, Faithworks, Theatre for Seniors, The Necessary Stage, The Glowers Drama Group and spell#7. Besides theatre, she has read for Tisch School of the Arts, students from the National University of Singapore, young local writers, the Baba House audio tour and appeared on television, movies, videos and commercials.

### **Maya Zainudin**

#### **Performer**

A young Singaporean born in 2003, Maya is already an experienced performer. She has musical training for guitar and piano and has often performed in private recitals. Also a bright singer, she recently was a co-host for the 2012 edition of ChildAid Singapore, held at the theatre of Marina Bay Sands Shopping Centre.